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the rod. His extracts from rare authors, as Champlain and Sagard, especially those in the original French, will be gratifying to every thorough student.

But Brulé's champion brings forward no new authorities, no newly discovered fact, to thicken the old proofs that did demonstrate thinly. Thus, when Brulé came down from his winter among the Hurons he is stated to "have given Champlain a lengthy account of all he had seen and heard" (p. 20). If he said he had seen Lake Huron, Champlain's journal would have told us so. He does tell us that "four men assured him they had seen that sea" (p. 131). Brulé was not one of them. Huron water was not visible from all parts of the broad Huron land. The Susquehanna story, supported only by Brulé's word, must in Champlain's later years have seemed to him a trifle light as air. His estimate will appear as we proceed. In regard to Lake Superior, Mr. Butterfield makes much of a copper ingot brought by Brulé to Sagard (p. 105). Yet he must know that such floats are still picked up several hundred miles from that lake. He expatiates more largely on a remark of Sagard that "Huron and the large lake beyond it together extended about thirty days' voyage with canoes according to the statement of the savages and of the interpreter four hundred leagues" (p. 161). His words are in French, "*trente journées de canots selon le rapport des sauvages et du truchement quatre cent lieues de longueur*" (p. 171). These words seem to be used merely as alternative phrases to show the Indian and the French modes of indicating one and the self-same distance.

But our author finds the last clause, in Italics, omitted in Champlain's *Voyages*, edition of 1632. These words were doubtless left out either as unimportant, or because the edition was an abridgment. He however charges the omission to the Jesuits, and moreover finds it big with latent meaning. It proves Brulé's personal inspection of Superior (p. 157). Indeed, he adds (p. 157), "the presumption is strong that Brulé's journey was not ended until he entered the mouth of the St. Louis river at the head of the lake." What a mountain is born from a mole-hill! If Brulé really penetrated to that utmost corner it is a pity that he ever came back to prove a traitor. Champlain's verdict cannot be reversed; Brulé, he says, "was paid a hundred pistoles for inciting the savages to trade. It was an evil custom thus to employ men of such bad lives that they ought to be severely punished. He was known to be very vicious and licentious." His epitaph may well be: Outcast from both English and French, he was deservedly eaten up by savages who, as Mr. Butterfield holds, believed cannibalism the most intense expression of detestation (p. 166).

JAMES D. BUTLER.

*Home Life in Colonial Days.* Written by ALICE MORSE EARLE in the year MDCCCXCVIII. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xvi, 469.)

THE reading public is sure to be favorably disposed toward a new work by Mrs. Earle. Her studies of the life and manners, the employ-

ments and appliances of the earlier generations on our soil have borne not only abundant, but remarkable fruit. We can recall at least ten books that she has published within this decade, and all of them are closely related to colonial history. Indeed the word colonial seems to have a subtle charm for her, as it has for many others, especially since the Revolutionary centennial observances which brought us all a fresh inspiration.

The new method of writing history, adopted by Green, McMaster, Fiske and others, has taken hold of the popular imagination and aroused a degree of enthusiasm for what may be called the social side of life, never exhibited before. This has favored the organization of patriotic orders and local historical societies with interesting collections of relics, and has created a demand for a more adequate literary interpretation of the real life of the olden time. Mrs. Earle has happily caught this spirit, and with excellent judgment has taken the tide at the flood, and availed herself both of the newly-gathered materials and of the quickened public taste, and with rare industry has associated her name permanently with this engaging field in American history. While she would doubtless consider herself the product of the new period she is to be credited with being one of its chief promoters.

*Home Life in Colonial Days* is not a repetition of the substance of the author's previous publications, though from the nature of the subject it would seem difficult for her in some cases to avoid it. Her laboratory must be well furnished, or she could not turn out another distinct and comprehensive volume like this. We hardly know whether to commend her more for her zeal in acquiring or her facility in distributing her knowledge. The key to the book is found in the word Home and whatever is associated with it; and as the colonial home was generally a country home we are introduced into an atmosphere which savors of the farm. Whoever has been brought up in a farm-house will relish these vivid descriptions of its old traditional life. The seventeen chapters seem to cover the field exhaustively, and yet we imagine the writer's portfolio may contain supplementary fragments, not treated here, of sufficient consequence to fill another volume.

One advantage of the present book is that while it deals with a single and well-defined subject from beginning to end, each chapter may be read at any time by itself as a separate monograph. Thus the matter of lighting the early homes is traced from pine-knots to candles and oil lamps. This involves a description of each article and of the way in which it was made, including also candlesticks, snuffers and tinder-box. Many readers would turn first to the chapter on The Kitchen Fireside, that centre and source of the old domestic life. Here we have the glow of the log-fire, the crane and pothooks, the great kettles and skillets, the toasters and roasters, not forgetting the warming-pan that hung hard by. Then follows The Serving of Meals, with an account of the board and board-cloth. They had napkins (but no forks for a long time), wooden trenchers, spoons and tankards, pewter plates and porringers, leather mugs, Dutch jugs and cocoanut cups. Among the foods described, Indian

corn has a deserved place of honor. Nearly a hundred pages are devoted to the important home industries of spinning and weaving ; and the subject is so thoroughly treated that any woman, who wishes to know what it all meant to our grandmothers, will find the mysteries more fully explained here than anywhere else. The account of Hand-weaving is the most complete of any in the book. Girls' Occupations, and Dress of the Colonists, suggest what the feminine reader will be grateful for ; and Jack-knife Industries will show that Yankee whittling was done to some purpose. The chapter on Travel and Taverns is not, strictly speaking, as appropriate for this work as for some other which the prolific author might be meditating upon. The same might be said of the fifteenth chapter—Sunday in the Colonies—which would seem to have belonged to the author's well-known *Sabbath in Puritan New England*. However, both of these chapters have a certain connection with the home, and no one need object to the place they occupy here. To write of Colonial Neighborliness in connection with the home was a happy thought, and one that hitherto has not received due attention. "It may seem anomalous to assert that while there was in olden times infinitely greater independence in each household than at present, yet there was also greater interdependence with surrounding households." This proposition is well worked out. The book closes with a charming account of The Old-Time Flower Gardens.

One is surprised to learn how many words which were in common use in former generations are now obsolete with most of us, *e. g.*, huckabuck, noggins, giskin, covercles, twifflers, voider, barbels, guiddonies, pomace, niddy-noddy, thrums, skarne, skilts, weft, mazer and a host of others. Many long-forgotten books also are quoted which elucidate old customs. The Middle and Southern colonies furnish their share of the material of the book, as well as New England. On page 125 an error is noticed in the sentence "not in the waters, but of it," and on page 389 "has gone all traces." In one or two chapters unnecessary expletives appear, *e. g.*, "exceedingly richly ;" "early inventories and lists ;" "discarded or disregarded ;" "usages and customs ;" "distinguishing and individual ;" "space and locality ;" "distinctly and rigidly ;" "absorbing and assimilating ;" "unexpected and premature."

The author acknowledges her indebtedness to the valuable collections of several of the state historical societies, the Bostonian Society, the Essex Institute, the American Antiquarian Society, the Deerfield Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian Institution. There are about 150 illustrations which shed much light upon the text. Most of them are new ; and many of them are of objects of household use which have passed entirely out of sight, and of which the average reader of to-day would hardly know the name. To show how some of the industries were conducted, the writer has taken pains to set up some of the old apparatus in complete working order, and to place women, clad in ancient dress, in the proper attitude of operating it ; then she has had these groups photographed. One might fancy that she herself may have posed for the figure

shown in Candle-Dipping, or in Flax-Spinning, or in Silk-Braiding, or in Soap-Making.

One pleasure which the historical student has in Mrs. Earle's writings is that they all deal with facts, wholly apart from the creations of fancy. So many writers have attempted to handle the two together that the historical part has been distorted, and often hopelessly confused with the fictitious. The linen cover of the volume is ornamented with a device in the style of a sampler, wrought in the old cross-stitch needle-work—an appropriate symbol of the Colonial Home.

EDWARD G. PORTER.

*Historic New York*, being the Second Series of the Half-Moon Papers. Edited by MAUD WILDER GOODWIN, ALICE CARRINGTON ROYCE, RUTH PUTNAM and EVA PALMER BROWNELL. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1899. Pp. xii, 470.)

THERE is no lack of system and careful supervision in the publication of *The Half-Moon Papers*, the second series of which appears under the title *Historic New York*. These monographs, upon topics relating to the history of New York City, were originally intended to meet the demands of students in classes organized by the City History Club. The first series, edited by Maud Wilder Goodwin, Alice Carrington Royce and Ruth Putnam, was the most successful effort ever made to popularize the history of colonial New York. The second series, which has the services of a fourth editorial associate, Eva Palmer Brownell, shows no diminution in any essential excellence. The present volume contains twelve monographs, each with an appropriate bibliography, and there is an index to the whole work which seems to be adequate. In the bibliographies no important omission is noted unless it be the Tory history of New York by Judge Jones.

Edwin Vernon Morgan writes upon "Slavery in New York, with special reference to New York City." It is to be regretted that Mr. Morgan has not enlarged his otherwise excellent essay with a more complete account of the Negro plot of 1712 and of the panic of 1741. The latter event is closely comparable in New York history with the Salem Terror in Massachusetts in 1693. It deserves more space. A concise history of Tammany Hall comes from the skilful hand of Dr. Talcott Williams. The only fault of the sketch is its brevity. Surely, for the purposes of the History Club, the Croker period, virtually omitted here, is the most important of all.

"Old Prisons and Punishments," by Elizabeth Dike Lewis, is a model of its kind; so also is "The Bowling Green," by Spencer Trask. The City Hall Park and the Bowling Green are the two "Commons," which, in New York's history, correspond to the famous "Common" in Boston. In historic action and interest neither of them needs to fear comparison with the sod so sacred to every Bostonian. In City Hall Park stood the liberty pole, chief cause of the battle of Golden Hill.